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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,653	05/09/2006	Jan Albert Markvoort	NL 031341	1786
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EXAMINER KAMAL, SHAHID				
ART UNIT 3621		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/578,653

Applicant(s)

MARKVOORT ET AL.

Examiner

SHAHID KAMAL

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05/09/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. The claims 1-19 are currently pending and have been examined.
2. This Office Action is response to the application filed on April 09, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Eichstaedt et al. (US Patent No. 7,188,072 B2) (“Eichstaedt”).
5. Referring to claim 1, Eichstaedt discloses the following:
 - a) a plurality of distinct data management systems (312, 314, 316), such as CAD, PLM, ERP, each for creating respective technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and
 - b) importing technical product data relating to a user- selectable project from a plurality of the data management systems (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44);
 - c) creating an exchange package representing user-selectable parts of the imported technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and

d) providing the exchange package to a computer system located at at least one of the other collaborating companies (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

6. Referring to claim 2, Eichstaedt further discloses a further data management system for operating on technical product data (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44); retrieving the exchange package; and exporting user-selectable technical product data from the exchange package to the further data management system (see column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

7. Referring to claim 3, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein a computer system of at least one of the collaborating companies includes a third editing system for: retrieving the exchange package (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44); combining user-selectable parts of technical product data in the retrieved exchange package into a further exchange package (see column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and providing the further exchange package to a computer system located at least one sub-contractor of the collaborating company (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

8. Referring to claim 4, Eichstaedt further discloses add technical product data into the exchange package (see column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); remove a user-selectable part of the imported technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); modify a user-selectable part of the imported technical product data (see figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

9. Referring to claim 5, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the editing system is operative to automatically insert traceability data into the exchange package representative of control operations of a user of the editing system (see column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).
10. Referring to claim 6, Eichstaedt further discloses for added technical products data: a representation of the added technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); a representation of the removed technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and a representation of both the original and modified technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).
11. Referring to claim 7, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the editing system is operative to import technical product data that relates to a same baseline of the project from the plurality of the data management systems (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).
12. Referring to claim 8, Eichstaedt further discloses retrieving the exchange package (see column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44); adding problem reporting data relating to at least one entity of the technical product data in the retrieved exchange package, forming an extended exchange package (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44); and providing

the extended exchange package to at least one computer system of a collaborating company (see column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

13. Referring to claim 9, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the editing system is operative to represent technical product data in a further exchange package in the form of a delta description that covers changes with respect to technical product data represented in a previously provided exchange package and to incorporate a reference to the previously provided exchange package in the further exchange package (see column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

14. Referring to claim 10, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the data exchange package includes a header and optional attachments for representing technical product data in a data management system specific format, such as a specific CAD format (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

15. Referring to claim 11, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the technical product data in the exchange package is arranged in a plurality of entities, and the exchange package includes for each of the entities information on one of the collaborating companies that has ownership of the entity; the editing system being operative to, under control of a user, trigger transfer of the ownership for a user-selectable entity in the exchange package to another one of the collaborating companies (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

16. Referring to claim 12, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the editing system is operative to include in metadata of the header of the exchange package an indication of a current owner, an indication of a desired owner, and an indication of a date of transfer of ownership to the desired owner (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

17. Referring to claim 13, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein metadata in the header includes status information on sub-projects of the project (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); the editing system being operative to convert status information imported from a data management system in a data management specific format to a predetermined format (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

18. Referring to claim 14, Eichstaedt further discloses an attachment further specifies information in a related entity (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); information in an attachment is derived from information in a related attachment (see figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); an attachment is hierarchically related to another attachment (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

19. Referring to claim 15, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein metadata in the header includes information on a task of the collaborating companies, such as a developer task, manufacturer task, supplier task, or service maintenance task (see figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

20. Referring to claim 16, Eichstaedt further discloses wherein the header is in the XML format (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

21. Referring to claim 17, Eichstaedt further discloses importing technical product data relating to a user-selectable project from a plurality of distinct data management systems, such as CAD, PLM, ERP, each for creating respective technical product data (see figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); creating an exchange package representing user-selectable parts of the imported technical product data (see figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and providing the exchange package to a computer system located at at least one of the other collaborating companies (see abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 33 through column 3, lines 44).

22. Referring to claim 18, Eichstaedt discloses the following:

- a) importing technical product data relating to a user-selectable project from a plurality of distinct data management systems, such as CAD, PLM, ERP, each for creating respective technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29);
- b) creating an exchange package representing user-selectable parts of the imported technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and
- c) providing the exchange package to a computer system located at at least one of the other collaborating companies (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

23. Referring to claim 19, Eichstaedt further discloses importing technical product data relating to a user-selectable project from a plurality of distinct data management systems, such as CAD, PLM, ERP, each for creating respective technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); creating an exchange package representing user-selectable parts of the imported technical product data (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29); and providing the exchange package to a computer system located at at least one of the other collaborating companies (see abstract, figure 1, column 1, lines 14 through column 2, lines 29).

24. Examiner's Note: The Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record within the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the response, should consider fully the entire reference as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

25. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the patent examiner should be directed to Shahid Kamal whose telephone number is (571) 270-3272. The Patent examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:30am -7:00pm), Friday off.
27. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for this origination where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.
28. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
29. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-directed.uspto.gov>.
30. Should you have any questions on accessing to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1(866) 217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 1(800) 786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 1(571) 272-1000.

SK
April 21, 2009

/EVENS J. AUGUSTIN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3621